

PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
100 N ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312

HYBRID MEETING

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	5	3
Brucie Cummings	P	7	1
Caleb Gunter	P	7	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	8	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	8	0
Darren Heitner	A	5	3
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	8	0
Gale Butler	P	6	2
Greg Martin	P	7	0
Jo Ann Smith	A	6	2
Marianna Seiler	P	7	1
Mary Peloquin	P	8	0
Robert Payne	A	4	4
Steffi Paskow	P	5	1
Tangerean Moore	P	8	0

Oct 2020 - Sept 2021

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Recreation Deputy Director*
Patricia SaintVil-Joseph, *Assistant City Attorney*
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*

Roll Call

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Mary Peloquin, that the minutes of August 25, 2021 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting its annual Big Toy and Truck Extravaganza event on October 9, 2021 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Holiday Park.

Mr. Williams informed the board that on the third Friday of the month the City will be hosting Carter Park Jamz from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at Carter Park.

Mr. Williams also informed the board that on the first Sunday of the month the City will be hosting the Jazz Brunch series from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Esplanade Park.

2. One Stop Shop

Board member Mary Peloquin briefly recapped the steps the board had recently taken in making a motion to send communications to the Commission but suggested that if the board agreed, they could look at writing a more detailed communications or letter to state that the One Stop Shop should be a park and not a concert venue.

Board member Brucie Cummings expressed the urgency for people to get a grip and stop building as the current situation is in a crisis mode since these decisions were creating more heat in the environment.

Mr. Williams stated that from his understanding, the last direction given was that the Commission had instructed the City Manager and the City Attorney's office to work together to produce a comprehensive agreement for further development of the site and come back to a future meeting to provide a recommendation.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that from his understanding, the City already owns the property and it would be good for the parks bond funding, as it would be one less green space or park that would need to be acquired.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that it would be interesting to know for the parts of this planned development of open space whether it would include real grass or artificial turf. Mr. Villeneuve also stated that instead of sending another letter that may just be ignored, the board should look at the option of requesting the project be presented to the board so that members can weigh in and provide recommendations.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated that one of the bigger issues is that the One Stop Shop is not currently listed as a park but rather commercial property. Ms. Cummings further stated that in her opinion, the Mayor is afraid that if it were turned into a park, the City would lose control of the park because of laws that have been passed by Florida Register.

Board member Greg Martin stated that he believes this proposed plan is a set up for the future especially with the Bright Line being close by, it will be set up as an entertainment district but definitely a commercial enterprise.

Vice-chair Deborah Rosenbaum stated that since the City currently owns the property, the City should take advantage of not having to buy property.

Assistant City Attorney Patricia SaintVil-Joseph introduced herself to the members of the board and confirmed that the One Stop Shop was heavily discussed at last night's commission meeting and also confirmed that the City Attorney was asked to issue an opinion as to the use of park bond for this project. Mrs. SaintVil-Joseph further stated that the City Manager and City Attorney did receive a directive from the Commission to go forward and outline some of the business proponents of the One Stop Shop.

3. Board Comments

Board member Alex Collazo informed the board that a letter was recently sent out to the Poinsettia Heights Civic Association that was addressed to the City Commission pertaining to joint use parks at Sunrise Middle and encouraged everyone to take a look at it as it has to do with the Parks and Recreation Board as well.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that he would prefer the board take the direction of saying it understands that the One Stop Shop is not a park, and that it understands that there is no commitment to make it a park but the reason the request is being made is because one, there is community discussion on whether it should be a park, and two it is being represented that even if it's not going to be a park, it will serve as a function of a park. Mr. Villeneuve further stated that because of it functioning as a park, the board should be allowed to have a presentation made before the board so that members could at least weigh in on the amenities.

Assistant City Attorney Patricia SaintVil-Joseph confirmed that the City Attorney is going to issue an opinion regarding the use of the park bond however, it would have to be designated as a park by the City Commission and this has not been done as of yet. Mrs. SaintVil-Joseph further stated that in order for the City Commission to be able to make a decision, the additional information requested by the Commission as directed to the City Manager, City Auditor and City Attorney would have to be brought back to the Commission for consideration and approval.

4. Communications to the Commission

There was no communications to the Commission.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.